

ALUMNI SNAPSHOT

B-5



Kieara Thomas

~ Woodlawn High School, 2006

~ Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a Business Administration minor, Towson University,
on track to graduate 2010

personal accomplishments and pride

~ Making it to senior year in college

~ Participating in National Student Exchange Program

their journey, their words

I am very proud and excited to say that I'm in my senior year at Towson University. There have been many obstacles and road bumps along my road to success. The major challenges have been cultural and financial. Coming from a predominately black high school to a predominately white, but widely diverse, university was definitely a culture shock. Sometimes I felt like I didn't belong or wasn't smart enough to be in college. This experience only motivated me to succeed. As a sophomore, I had difficulties with financial aid and my mother couldn't afford to pay for school. Choosing to work three jobs while going to school, I was able to pay for school and books. It was very hard to maintain this schedule and good grades. That year there were many long nights, but I am thankful I didn't drop out of college.

As a junior, I took advantage of the National Student Exchange Program, spending the year studying at California State University Northridge. It was a wonderful experience where I took classes related to my major and met a lot of new and exciting people. It felt good to leave Baltimore, live a different life and learn to be more open-minded about people and my environment.

I know I have a long road ahead of me and I am very thankful and blessed to be a part of Building STEPS. Building STEPS is the reason I am in college. This program provided me with encouragement and the knowledge I needed to prepare for college. Before Building STEPS, I never thought I would end up at Towson University or any college other than community college. I am now a program alumna and Building STEPS is still helping me as I search for an internship that will lead to a career.

*The Alumni Snapshot was designed by a Building STEPS' alumna, now a Towson graduate and is produced by Building STEPS.
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